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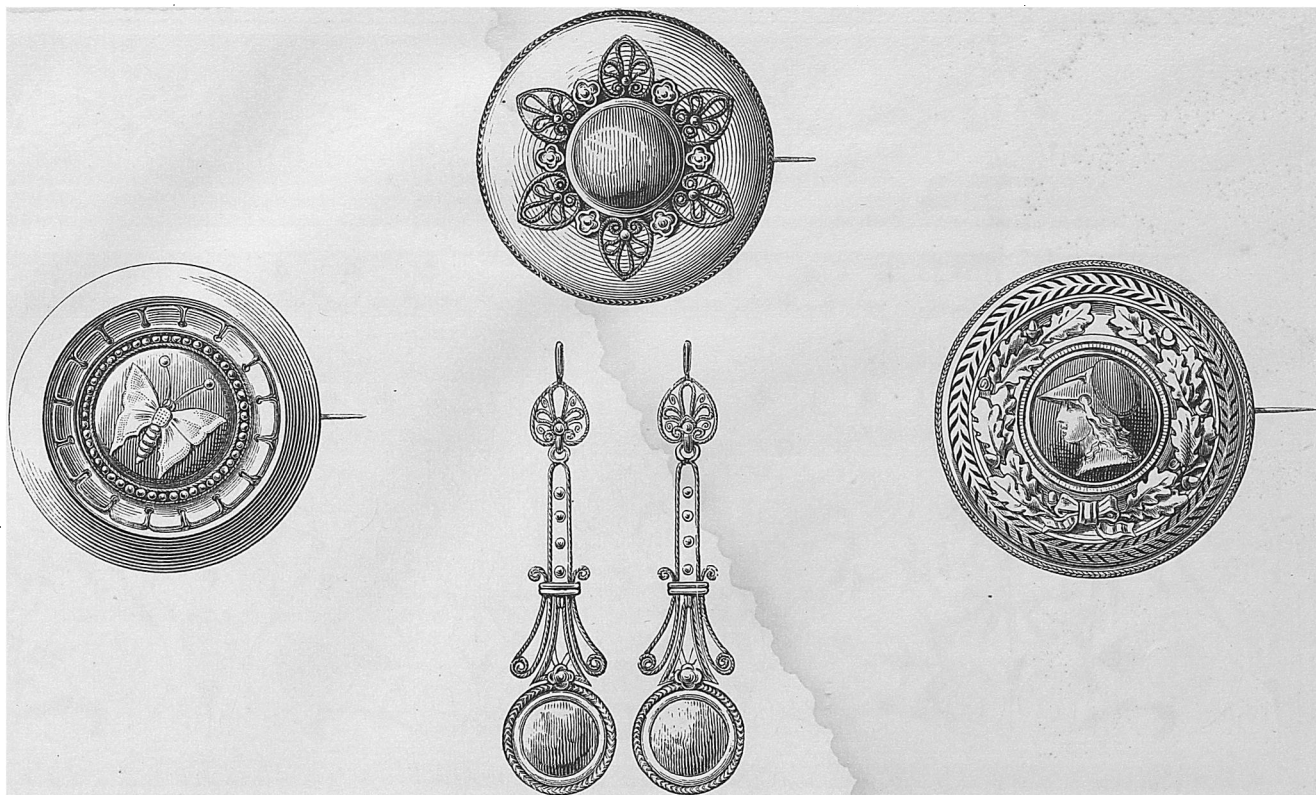
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Nos. 21—24. Brooches and Ear Pendants, designed and manufactured by Mr. Hugo Shaper, Berlin.

VARIOUS.

Hard and Soft.

In the *Journal of the Franklin Institute* for March is an interesting account of Mr. H. C. Tilghman's process for cutting hard bodies with substances softer than themselves. A jet of quartz sand, for example, thrown against a block of corundum soon pierces a hole. Sand driven by a blast of air of the pressure of about 4 in. of water rapidly grinds glass; and at a meeting of the Franklin Institute numerous experiments were made showing several very beautiful and useful applications of this process. Amongst other things it has been used for engraving on glass, photographic pictures formed on films of gelatine with the bichromate of potash.

Chinese Ornaments.

The patient and often ingenuous workmen of China produce many articles of ornament which have a deservedly high commercial value. Mr. Pumpelly states that one of the most fertile sources of amusement to the stranger in Pekin, is the walk through the streets in which are collected the curiosity stores and lapidary shops. The show cases are filled with ornaments; piles of porcelain vases of every shape, objects in bronze; étagères of heavily carved vermilion lacker ware, loaded with vases; ornaments in which all the precious stones known to us are represented, excepting only the diamond, emerald and opal. Nor, says our traveller, are their prices at all modest; five hundred to two thousand dollars is by no means an uncommon price for porcelain and cloisonnés vases in which beauty and moderate age are combined; it is only the productions of the present day that are cheap. Among other curiosities which engage the attention of foreigners are horn, glass, silk and paper lanterns; some of which are very beautiful;

also bowls, cups, rings, etc., cut from gems and stones; carved work in horn, stone, roots, metal, and wood. Hardly a ship leaves the country, says Mr. Williams in his admirable work on the commerce of China, without some of these curiosities.

Scientific American.

"The Deflector" Chimney Cowl.

A very strong testimonial from Germany made us think well at starting of this chimney-cowl and ventilator, which has been illustrated and advertised in our columns for some time, and this good opinion is confirmed by an examination into its principle. A gust of wind, entering the top of the cowl in a vertical direction, is turned aside from the flue by means of the cone in the interior, and deflected through the space formed by the two outer curves. Beyond this, however, as in most cowls more or less, wind, in passing the top of the main pipe, produces in it a vacuum, and the smoke (or vitiated air, if used for ventilating purposes) comes up to fill it and so escapes. We feel confidence in recommending it.

The Builder.

Mosaic Pavement.

Salviati is preparing some beautiful mosaic pavement to replace the worn out ancient floor of the Church of St. Mark. It is to be exactly like the old pavement as to design, and figures of the four evangelists will be added. The old materials will be used whenever they can be applied; but in most cases the stone of formerly 2 in., thick has been worn down to $\frac{1}{4}$ in. The wavy appearance of the floor will be remembered.